

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/035513 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D 301/10**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/025906

(22) International Filing Date: 9 August 2004 (09.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/507,011 29 September 2003 (29.09.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALKYLENE OXIDE USING A GAS-PHASE PROMOTER SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: An improved process for the manufacture of ethylene oxide through the epoxidation of ethylene using a catalyst comprising silver and at least one efficiency-enhancing salt of a member of a redox-half reaction pair. Added to the epoxidation reaction is a two-component gas-phase promoter system comprising a chlorine-containing component (for example ethyl chloride, methyl chloride, vinyl chloride and ethylene dichloride), and a nitrogen-containing component of nitric oxide and other compounds capable of generating under reaction conditions at least one gaseous efficiency-enhancing member of a redox-half reaction pair comprising NO, NO₂, N₂O₃ or N₂O₄. The amount of each component of said gaseous promoter is adjusted to maintain the ration of N* to Z* less than or equal to 1 wherein, N* is the nitric oxide equivalent in ppmv, ranging from 1 to 20 ppmv and Z* =ethyl chloride equivalent (ppmv) * 100 percent / ethane equivalent (mol percent) * 100 ranging from 5 to 40 ppmv.

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